

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*Sub
A'*

1. An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel, each ink cartridge having at least one engaging portion formed at a side of the ink cartridge that faces an adjacent ink cartridge, wherein a set of the opposed engaging portions of each pair of adjacent ink cartridges forms a matching set in which the engaging portions engage with each other to position the adjacent ink cartridges with respect to each other, and wherein the matching sets are shaped and located such that a fitting structure between one pair of adjacent ink cartridges and a fitting structure between another pair of adjacent ink cartridges are different in form.

*Sub
C1
cont.*

2. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein each matching set has a different shape.

*Sub
A2*

3. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein one engaging portion of each matching set is a projection and the other is a recess.

*Sub
C1
cont.*

4. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein each engaging portion extends in a direction parallel with a direction in which the associated ink cartridge is moved for attaching the ink cartridge to the cartridge accommodating portion.

5. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein each matching set allows the associated two ink cartridges to move relative with each other in a direction parallel with a direction in which the ink cartridges are moved for attaching

the ink cartridges to the cartridge accommodating portion.

Sub A3

6. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein each ink cartridge includes a main body and a sub body connected to the main body, and each engaging portion is formed in the sub body of the associated ink cartridge.

Claim 7

7. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the cartridge accommodating portion has a plurality of connecting members, wherein each ink cartridge includes a contact that contacts one of the connecting members when the ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion.

15. each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges.

Sub A4

20. The ink cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the contacts of adjacent ink cartridges contact a common connecting member.

10. An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel, each ink cartridge having at least one engaging portion formed at a side of the ink cartridge that faces an adjacent ink cartridge, wherein a set of the opposed engaging portions of each pair of adjacent ink cartridges forms a matching set in which the engaging portions engage with each other to position the adjacent ink cartridges with respect to each other, and wherein each matching set is formed only between predetermined two adjacent ink cartridges such that the ink cartridges are connected together as aligned

*Sub A4
cont.*

in a predetermined order.

Sub C cont.

11. The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein each matching set has a different shape.

5 *Sub A5*

12. The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein one engaging portion of each matching set is a projection and the other is a recess.

10 13. The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein each engaging portion extends in a direction parallel with a direction in which the associated ink cartridge is moved for attaching the ink cartridge to the cartridge accommodating portion.

15 *Sub C cont.*

14. The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein each matching set allows the associated two ink cartridges to move relative with each other in a direction parallel with a direction in which the ink cartridges are moved for attaching the ink cartridges to the cartridge accommodating portion.

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15. The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the cartridge accommodating portion has a plurality of connecting members, wherein each ink cartridge includes a contact that contacts one of the connecting members when the ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges.

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30 *Sub A6*

16. The ink cartridge according to claim 15, wherein the contacts of adjacent ink cartridges contact a common connecting member.

17. An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the
ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably
attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet
printer as aligned in parallel, wherein each ink cartridge
5 includes a contact that contacts one of connecting members
formed in the cartridge accommodating portion when the ink
cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion,
and wherein each contact is located offset from the middle of
the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the
10 ink cartridges.

Sub A1

18. The ink cartridge according to claim 17, wherein
the contacts of adjacent ink cartridges contact a common
connecting member.

19. An inkjet printer, comprising:
a cartridge accommodating portion; and
a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges
are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion
as aligned in parallel, each ink cartridge having at least one
engaging portion formed at a side of the ink cartridge that
faces an adjacent ink cartridge, wherein a set of the opposed
engaging portions of each pair of adjacent ink cartridges
forms a matching set in which the engaging portions engage
25 with each other to position the adjacent ink cartridges with
respect to each other, and wherein the matching sets are
shaped and located such that a fitting structure between one
pair of adjacent ink cartridges and a fitting structure
between another pair of adjacent ink cartridges are different
30 in form.

20. An inkjet printer, comprising:
a cartridge accommodating portion;
a plurality of connecting members, which are formed in

Sub B2

the cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel; and

- 5 a contact, which is formed on each ink cartridge, wherein each contact contacts one of the connecting members when the associated ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning
- 10 direction of the ink cartridges.

09/04/83 *09/03*

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